

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15662 171734Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1636

S E C R E T PARIS 15662

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CG, CACS, FR

SUBJECT: SHABA INCURSION: POSSIBLE RESCUE EFFORT

REF: STATE 125187

1. THIS MORNING (MAY 17) WE INFORMED PRESIDENT GISCARD'S AFRICAN ADVISOR, RENE JOURNIAC, PER REFTEL OF OUR DECISION TO ALERT SELECTED UNITS OF THE 82ND AIRBORNE AND OF OUR THINKING THAT A COLLABORATIVE RATHER THAN A UNILATERAL OPERATION MIGHT BE INDICATED IF SUBSEQUENT CONDITIONS INDICATED THAT AN EVACUATION OPERATION WAS NECESSARY. WE ASKED WHETHER FRENCH THINKING ON THIS MATTER WAS SIMILAR TO OUR OWN AND WHETHER THEY BELIEVED JOINT PLANNING MIGHT AT SOME POINT BECOME DESIRABLE.

2. JOURNIAC SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED A CABLE FROM WASHINGTON CONTAINING THE INFORMATION PASSED TO THE FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE BY DOD ON THE ALERTING OF THE 82ND AIRBORNE. THIS INFORMATION HAD BEEN PASSED TO GISCARD PRIOR TO THIS MORNING'S CABINET MEETING WHICH WAS THEN IN SESSION. JOURNIAC SAID THAT AS SOON AS THE MEETING WAS OVER HE WOULD INFORM GISCARD OF OUR THINKING ON THE DESIRABILITY OF POSSIBLE JOINT PLANNING FOR AN

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EVACUATION OPERATION. HE DID NOT INDICATE WHEN WE MIGHT EXPECT A RESPONSE. HE SAID THAT OUR ALERTING OF THE 82ND AIRBORNE AND THE BEGINNING OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR AN EVACUATION OPERATION WAS PRUDENT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. HE SAID HE FELT IT WAS STILL NECESSARY FOR THE GOF TO WAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF EVENTS AND TO GATHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BEFORE DECIDING ON ANY

COURSE OF ACTION.

3. LATER IN THE DAY AIRA PASSED THE SAME MESSAGE TO VICE CHIEF OF STAFF, LTGEN DELAVAL. DELAVAL GAVE AS HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT PLANNING NOW WOULD BE DIFFICULT SINCE THE INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE AN OPERATION IS LACKING. AS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE JOINT PLANNING, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD PUT THE QUESTION TO CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL MERY RIGHT AWAY. HE SAID THAT HE FELT THIS WAS A MULTI-LATERAL QUESTION. THE FRENCH MILITARY HAD ALREADY RAISED IT WITH THE BELGIANS.

4. FOLLOWING TODAY'S CABINET MEETING THE ELYSEE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT "THE GOF APPROVES AND SUPPORTS THE EFFORTS OF THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT AND OF ITS PRESIDENT, WITH WHICH THE GOF IS IN CONTACT, TO OPPOSE THE PENETRATION OF SHABA AND REESTABLISH SECURITY...GOF WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REACHED...IT FOLLOWS ATTENTATIVELY THE SITUATION OF THE FOREIGN CITIZENS IN LIAISON WITH THE COUNTRIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED."

HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EMERGENCY EVACUATION, MILITARY BUILDUP, RESCUE OPERATIONS, CONTINGENCY PLANNING, CAT-A  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Executive Order:** X1  
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**Review Event:**  
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**TAGS:** MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG, FR, US, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)  
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